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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Military, Naval, and Border Guard Units in Tallinn
2. Miscellaneous Military Data

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

A map of the city of Tallinn, on which the points described in this report are indicated

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1. In Tallinn-Kopli there is a large motorized army unit consisting of approximately 100 vehicles. This unit is on Kalinin Street between Bekkeri and Vene-Balti, near the railroad bridge.

Directly behind this installation is a large infantry unit there is also another infantry unit in Vene-Balti

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2. The next largest infantry unit is located somewhere in Rajone Sitsi. Another unit is located on Paldiski maantee, near Mustajõe, and several infantry units are stationed on Heina Street in Eerika.

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3. The largest concentration of military units in Kopli is in the so-called "Red Casernes", which have been renovated and enlarged. A five-story building, which has been erected on Kopli Street, has a training school for naval officers and seamen

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4. In the middle of the Paljassaare Peninsula is another military unit. A large unit is also on the Rocca-al-Mare Peninsula

This unit on Rocca-al-Mare has a large area enclosed with barbed wire; the entire section is under military control. There are additional military units in Pirita and Lasnamäe,

At the former Estonian Officers' Academy in Tondi there is a large military establishment which includes mechanized troops. The headquarters of the so-called Inner Garrison of the Toompea Garrison is on Toompea Hill. The Toompea Garrison is responsible for protecting the Party members and government authorities.

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5. Directly behind the Kaarli Church on what was formerly Kaarli Street, there are five-story buildings [] which appear to be staff and administrative offices for the Navy. On Toompuiestee Street, across from the Kaarli Church, there are more infantry units [] 50X1-HUM
6. Between the trolley car or train stops at Nõmme, Tondi, and Järve, which lead out of Tallinn, there are additional mechanized units; cannon, armored cars, and small tanks are visible. Near the former Vene turg [], a four-story naval officers' house occupies the site of the former Grand Marina movie theatre on Merepuistee Street. On Kaarli Street, in the direction of Toompea Hill, there is a staff building which is constantly guarded by military sentries [] 50X1-HUM
7. [] Tallinn has only one airport and this is divided into two sections. One part is on Lasnamäe Hill near the Ülemiste Lake and is used only for civilian air traffic. The second section is located towards Pirita [] and is used only for military aircraft, including jets. Both airports are constantly under military guard. 50X1-HUM
8. Tallinn's harbor area is also occupied by military garrisons; Tallinn actually has two harbors. The first is in Kopli between Bekkeri and Vene-Balti []. Small war vessels such as PT boats, submarines, and small mine-laying cruisers [] are stationed in this harbor area; war vessels of all sizes are anchored in the harbor or in the roadstead. Both harbors are surrounded by an underwater steel net, which reacts to any metal object which comes near and automatically sets off an alarm. There is a gate or "portal" in the net to permit ships to enter and leave the harbor. A cable under this gate magnetically neutralizes the ships passing over it. Entrance to this closely guarded, restricted harbor area is by special permit [] 50X1-HUM
[] the number of workers at the harbor is unknown. 50X1-HUM
9. There is a rumor in the city that Tallinn may soon be proclaimed a free port. If this becomes a fact, the military basin would be moved to Paldiski, which is supposed to become the largest military harbor on the Baltic Sea. Only war vessels which belong directly to the coastal units would remain in Tallinn.
10. The former harbor installation of the Estonian naval pilots has been moved from its former location near Palja []. The original base has been turned into a military harbor.
11. Tallinn also has two fishing harbors [] which belong to the fishery collectives. 50X1-HUM
12. All the Tallinn peninsulas have border guard protection, as do the islands around Tallinn. They all have gun installations and are occupied by coastal units in addition to border guards. All Tallinn harbors are protected by coastal units. The border and coastal units are located at Kopli Point [] at Paljassaar Point, in Pirita and Merivälja, and on Roca-al-Mare Peninsula. Border control regulations prohibit civilians from being on the beaches near Tallinn after 2200 hours in the summer, and 2000 hours in winter. 50X1-HUM
13. While extensive sea maneuvers were underway in the Atlantic during the summer of 1958, a three-day blackout exercise was held in Tallinn. People who did not cover their windows sufficiently were punished; all cars, buses, and even trains were blacked out. A second blackout exercise took place several weeks later.

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14. Soviet demobilization and reduction of the armed forces, which was so loudly proclaimed to the West, was a fraud. Prior to the "reduction", all fire fighting brigades and labor battalions were made up of those with "unclean" backgrounds and were not acceptable to the Soviet Army as regular soldiers. Both the fire brigades and labor units, however, are given military training. In "reducing" the Soviet Army, 90,000 fire fighters and 60,000 laborers were simply given new uniforms; therefore the Soviet Army was reduced by 150,000 men.¹ None of the mobilized laborers was demobilized before this time. It is said that the Soviet Union has 16 million men constantly armed.

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1.  Comment: Apparently the figures in this sentence refer to Soviet forces in Estonia; 

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